

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 3 November 2010, has been received and its contents carefully noted. The pending claims, claims 1-3 and 5-9, were rejected. By this amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the Examiner taking the time to conduct a personal interview on 19 April 2011. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the arguments and amendments in the Response filed 3 March 2011 overcome the rejections based on Nowak. The Examiner indicated that amending the claims to cancel certain “members” from the claimed compositions would overcome the rejection based on Deller. The Examiner indicated that she would obtain a human translation of Deller to confirm that the amended claims do not read on Deller and that she would contact the undersigned should further amendments be necessary.

The Examiner also indicated that she would likely favorably receive arguments that there would have been no motivation to combine the disclosure of Hasenzahl with that of Gruenewaelder in view of the teachings of Gruenewaelder (e.g. [0018]). Specifically, Gruenewaelder discloses the need for a thickener having specific properties at paragraph [0018]. Gruenewaelder discloses that such a thickener which meets such requirements is highly disperse silica. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to compact silica by a pressing filter belt to make it less disperse and then use such in accordance with Gruenewaelder.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner’s time, diligence and thoughtful consideration and recommendations which are helping to advance prosecution.

Art rejections based on Nowak

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nowak (US 20010047047). The Examiner also rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Nowak.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections based on Nowak may be properly withdrawn in view of the Response filed 3 March 2011.

Art rejection based on Deller

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 as being anticipated by Deller (WO 2003/097713).

Applicants respectfully submit that Deller does not teach or suggest the present invention as set forth in the instant claims, as amended. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should properly be withdrawn.

Art rejection based on Gruenewaelder and Hasenzahl

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Gruenewaelder (WO 2001/090271) in view of Hasenzahl (US 20020197311). This rejection is traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the disclosures of Gruenewaelder and Hasenzahl in order to arrive at the instant invention, as claimed. Specifically, Gruenewaelder teaches the necessity of a thickener which is highly dispersed silica. See e.g. [0007], [0018], and claims 1 and 9. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to compact silica by a pressing filter belt to make it less disperse and then use such in accordance with Gruenewaelder. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use the compacted silica of Hasenzahl (which is used in pharmaceutical and cosmetic compositions) in the composition of Gruenewaelder (which is a single-component polyurethane adhesive).

In addition, nowhere do the cited documents, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the unexpected properties, i.e. wet-in behavior, thixotropic indices and viscosities, of using a compacted hydrophobic silica in adhesive and sealant compositions as set forth in the instant claims. In particular, nowhere do the cited documents teach or suggest that hydrophobic silica compacted by a pressing filter belt will result in a thixotropic index that is about the same or higher than the uncompacted silica and a significantly reduced wet-in time as compared to that of the uncompacted silica.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is novel and unobvious and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should properly be withdrawn.

Request for Interview

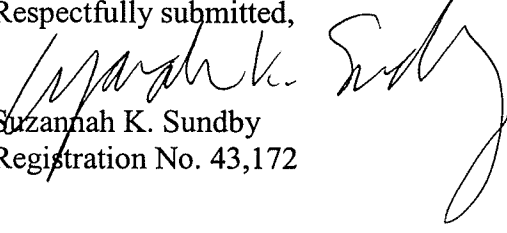
Either a telephonic or an in-person interview is respectfully requested should there be any remaining issues.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Official action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 024300, Attorney Docket No. 032301.457.**

Respectfully submitted,


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